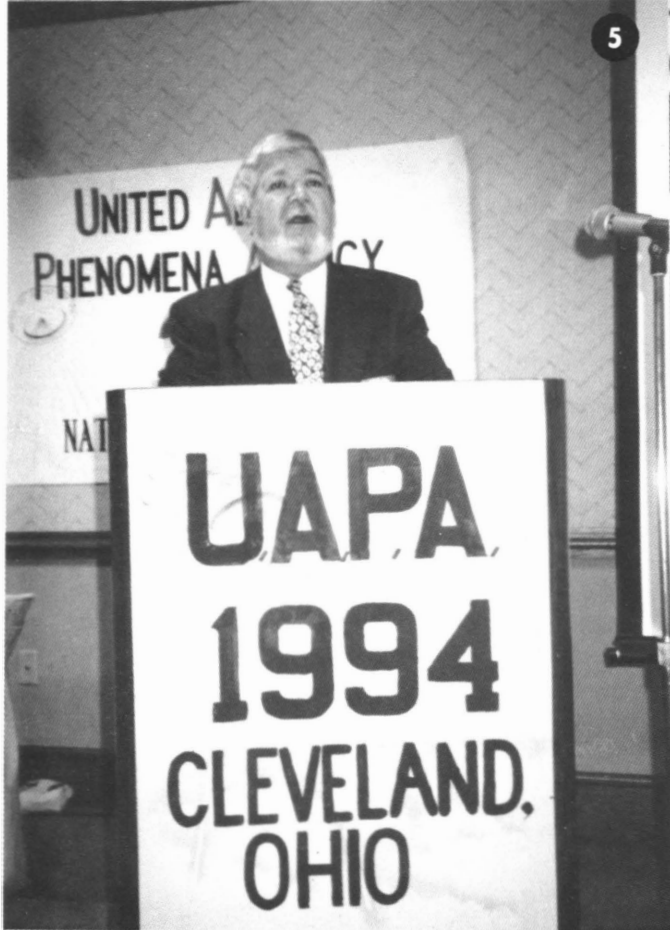
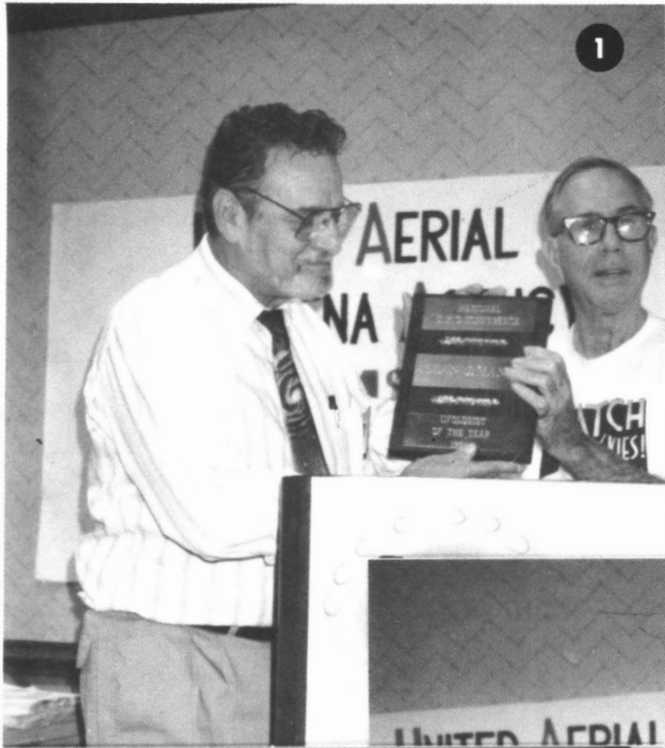


# FLYING SAUCER DIGEST

No. 127

Fall 1994



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**UNITED AERIAL PHENOMENA AGENCY**

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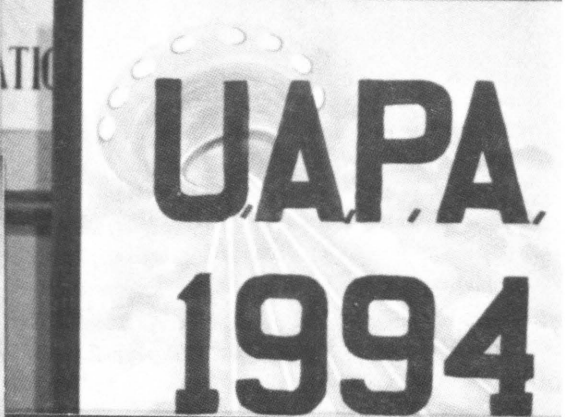
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**FROM THE EDITOR**  
by Allan J. Manak

The 31st National UFO Conference, held in Cleveland, Ohio on the 16th and 17th of September 1994 was a complete success. Back in 1964 when the initial conference was held in Cleveland, there were some surprises: such as over 300 people in attendance. This year there were also some surprises: such as a complete sell-out two weeks before September 17th. Then there were the three top speakers in all ufology on the same program: Dr. Frank Stranges, Stanton Friedman, and Kevin Randle. Also there were over 300 people in attendance counting the various vendors and television reporters and cameramen from around the country. Everything went on without a hitch. On pages 1 and 2 of this issue, photo captions are as follows: No. 1- Allan J. Manak receiving the "Ufologist of the year" award from James Moseley, chairman of the 31st National UFO Conference and editor of Saucer Smear. No. 2- Some of the audience during the afternoon session. No. 3- G. Cope Schellhorn delivering his lecture. No. 4- Allen H. Greenfield during his lecture. No. 5- Dr. Frank Stranges, captivating the audience during his explosive speech. No. 6- Kevin Randle making a point about the Roswell incident. No. 7- a portion of the evening audience. No. 8- Simone Mendez, responding to the question and answer period after her lecture. No. 9- Host chairmen Rick Hilberg and Allan Manak behind the UAPA display and sale tables. No. 10- Rev. Hilton giving the invocation to the opening of the conference. No. 11- (from left to right) Mrs. Carol Hilberg, Rick Hilberg, James Moseley, Miss Benita C. Owens and Allan Manak conversing about the conference. No. 12- Rick Hilberg and Allan Manak during one of the many TV and radio interviews.

**UFO BITS AND PIECES**  
by Allan J. Manak

**UFO ENCOUNTERS MAGAZINE:** A 32 page, bi-monthly zine published by Aztec publishing, is a truly fine new UFO magazine. Subscriptions are \$19.95 a year (6 issues) and well worth it. This publication is highly recommended by UAPA.

**MYSTERIOUS RINGS CIRCLE SUPERNOVA 1987A:** New images from the Hubble Space Telescope show a trio of rings surrounding the site of supernova 1987A. Although all three rings had been seen before from the ground, the highly detailed Hubble images reveal for the first time that the two outer rings may be mirror images of one another. The details in these rings "are completely unlike anything we had expected to see," said Chris Burrows of the European Space Agency and the Space Telescope Science Institute, leader of the team that took the Hubble images. Burrows hypothesizes that the rings, each a few light-years in diameter, may be "painted" on a gaseous nebula by a high-energy beam of radiation of particles emanating from a previously unknown stellar remnant. The remnant presumably was part of a binary system that orbited Sanduleak, the star that became the supernova in 1987 when it exploded in the Large Magellanic Cloud. cr: Astronomy Magazine, September 1994.

**CANADA'S UFO HOTSPOT:** In the region of York in Ontario, Canada, lies the little town of Bradford. At first sight, one would never guess it to be a portal into another dimension. But to UFO enthusiasts across Canada, that's exactly what it is! The Canadian UFO community has come to think of Bradford as a port of entry for cosmic travelers, and ufologists have labeled the area between Bradford, Uxbridge and Aurora the "Bradford

Triangle." In fact on 12 March 1994, over 500 UFO investigators converged on the small town for one of the largest of Canadian ufology's conclaves in history. Psychic Joyce Halfin, an organizer of the big event, agreed that no other town in Canada could deservedly be called a "UFO hot spot." Halfin, who also claims to have been physically taken aboard a flying saucer, says there is "something that draws the psychically gifted to Bradford." cr: Valley Entertainment Monthly, June 1994.

**ANCIENT ENGLISH CROP CIRCLES:** A rare pamphlet of 1678 which tells of strange happenings in Hertfordshire, when spiraling circles that appeared in a field one night were said to be the work of the devil, has been unearthed in a private collection. It is described as the earliest known reference to crop circles. Though the stalks were cut and arranged rather than flattened, says the 17th-century narrator, every straw was "placed....with that exactness that it would have taken up above an age for any man to perform....in that one night." When a farmer asked a neighbor to mow the oats in his 3.5 acre field, the poor man "endeavour'd to sell the sweat of his brows and marrow of his bones at as dear a rate as reasonably he might....some sharp words had passed....the irritated farmer with a stern look....told the poor man that the devil should mow his oats before he should have anything to do with them." That night, locals saw the farmer's field "to be all of a flame, and so continued for some space, to the great consternation of those that beheld it." Cereologists noted that the event is recorded as having taken place in August, which tallies with the timing of most modern crop circles. Many of them are discovered in oat fields. But as neither the precise locality nor the farmer's name are specified, a local Hertfordshire historian in 1913 dismissed the story as purely imaginary, a warning "never to say in anger what might be afterwards a matter for regret." cr: the Independent via COUD-I.

**MORE CROP CIRCLES:** Impressions in a field along US 26 in Oregon drew scores of observers, each one with a theory of how the circles got there and what they mean. Scythed into the waist-high wheat is a circle about 35 feet across. It is ringed by a second circle of untouched wheat surrounded by another cut path about 3 feet wide. Four arms radiate from the huge center circle, each one ending in a smaller oval of trampled wheat. Washington County sheriff's deputies have been called to the scene a couple of times, mostly to control traffic and ask gawkers not to park along the highway. The circles are on the north side of the hill, just high enough to be seen from the highway. They are about half-way between the exit for southwest 185th Avenue and the Rock Creek sewage treatment plant. Each circle has a divot in the center, like a stake was driven in to act as a pivot point for whatever was used to crush the wheat. cr: Portland, OR Oregonian 6-28-94.

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FLYING SAUCER DIGEST is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) by the United Aerial Phenomena Agency (UAPA). Chairman/Editor is Allan J. Manak. Assistant Editor is Rick R. Hilberg. Typist is Carol Hilberg. Staff artist is Benita C. Owens. UAPA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and related subjects. All correspondence and manuscripts are welcomed, but they must be accompanied by an SASE to be returned. Subscription rates are: 4 issues \$9.00 or 8 issues \$17.00. All foreign subscriptions add \$3.00 per year. UAPA, Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134

## AROUND AND ABOUT THE SAUCER WORLD

by Rick R. Hilberg

### UFOs OR BLIMPS CONFUSE OHIO SIGHTERS

In late August and early September, Lorain and Erie county residents were spotting all kinds of unusual things in the night sky. From reading numerous press reports and having talked with persons who were close to the scene, I have to say that it's hard to put a handle on these cases, as they have elements of being seemingly genuine UFOs as well as possible astronomical objects and/or aircraft.

The first series of reports began late on the 29th of August. The following account is from staffer Christine Reichert of the Lorain Journal in the paper's August 31st edition:

A Berlin Heights teen-ager said she was frightened when she saw an unidentified flying object with blinking lights hovering around her home for almost three hours before it finally disappeared early yesterday morning.

The girl said she also heard a loud wind-like noise, but didn't see any wind rustling the trees.

An Erie County sheriff's deputy was called to the home, and he, too, saw the mysterious lights.

This was the latest in a long string of UFO sightings in Erie County in recent years, most centered near Perkins Township. The majority of the reports come in the summer.

"It scared me," said Carmen Utter, 15, the daughter of Kerry and Bob Utter, of Berlin Heights.

Carmen said she first saw the UFO just before heading to bed about 10:30 p.m. Monday. She continued to see the object off and on until early yesterday morning.

"It was pretty big, bigger than an airplane; about the same size as a blimp," she said.

"I was looking out my window. I just thought it was a star moving. I went and saw lights going around - they were green, red and white. I was sitting watching for a while," Carmen said.

"I tried to get my mom and dad to look at it, but they wouldn't," she said. However, as the UFO continued

to blink and hover and move, her family joined her and then reported the sighting to the Erie County Sheriff's Department.

Carmen said she took out her binoculars and watched the UFO for some time.

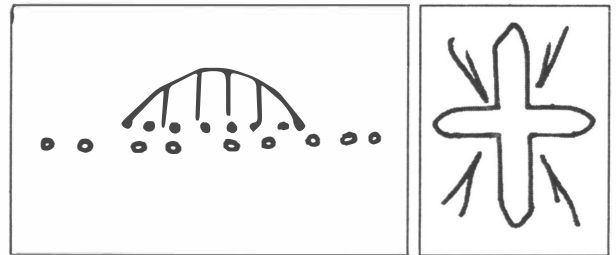
"I saw lights going around sparking on and off, and a long white thing - it was going around in circles," she said, adding it appeared to operate similar to a lighthouse beacon.

"It was there until 12:30 a.m. (yesterday). It was sitting in the sky, it wasn't moving or anything," Carmen said. "It seemed right across the road, above the trees."

At one time, she said the red and green lights stopped blinking and suddenly bright white lights formed a cross.

"I don't know if it was trying to communicate. I really don't know if it was alien. I think it might be alien," Carmen said.

At one point, Carmen said she and her father went outside and watched





the object hover overhead.

"It was just sitting there. It wasn't moving. It was just sitting in the sky, like it was anxious for me to go to bed," Carmen said. "My dad was looking at it. When he was looking at it, all the lights went off and then it flew over our house really fast. The lights flickered back on when it was going over."

In addition to the Utter family seeing the object, the sheriff's deputy responding to the call saw the brightly lighted object. Deputy Jeff Hippley said it appeared to be stationary over the eastern end of Oxford Township, about 2 miles in the air, according to his report.

The deputy continued to periodically check on the object, which appeared to move due west "at a very, very slow rate, before losing sight of it at 1:07 a.m. yesterday," according to the report.

Hippley said he doubts the object was from outer space.

"The only thing I could see was lights in the sky. It reminded me of a blimp," he said.

The deputy said he has taken a lot of good-natured joking from his co-workers. "I knew that would happen, but my job is to report what I see, and I could see lights, so I reported it," he said.

Now here's where a possible aircraft comes into the picture, although it may not do too much to explain sightings on the 29th and 30th. The following "blimp" sighting from September 1st is by Benjamin Gleisser of the Lorain Journal in the September 3rd edition:

On Monday night, a Berlin Heights teen-ager and an Erie County sheriff's deputy saw a bright object hovering in the sky. On Wednesday night and early Thursday morning, a posse of Amherst and Vermillion UFO hunters followed an object heading east across the sky.

While flying saucer aficionados were chasing E.T.s, three Lorain County sheriff's deputies were busy calling area police departments Thursday around 1 a.m., and telling dispatchers to disregard UFO reports because a blimp was passing overhead.

"Our three deputies confirmed that the object was a blimp moving in a west-to-east-southeast direction toward Akron," said sheriff's Capt. Joe Bell. "They looked up in the night sky and saw a shape they identified as being a blimp. Blimps have a definite shape."

That opinion was shared by South Amherst resident Pearl Phillips, who watched a bright, glowing object crawl over her house.

"It was no UFO," said Ms. Phillips. "Its shape was like the Goodyear blimp, and lit up on the side were the words 'Channel 94' or 'Channel 96,' but I remember the word 'channel.' You could see the cross on the bottom like that girl in Berlin Heights described it. But that was the gondola, and you could hear the motor. When it passed over, my friend and I laughed. Right away we knew it wasn't a UFO."

Even if the object is proved to be a blimp, that still doesn't wrap up the mystery. Because no one seems to know whose blimp was in the sky, where it came from, or where it was headed.

Don Dochert, a spokesman with the FAA, said blimps don't have to register flight patterns with the agency.

And so the mystery continues - was the blip a blimp, or is there a television station out there that no one knows about? Stay tuned. (Thanks to Brad and Cindy Bado for research assistance).

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## JUNE 9th SIGHTING IN ILLINOIS

The June 16th edition of the Barrington Courier - Review had details on the following interesting report:

Women sometimes have a hard time believing the stories their boy-friends tell.

Consider, for example, Jenny Polk of Inverness, whose boyfriend Brian called her last Thursday night to say he saw strange, huge red lights in the sky over Dundee Road. She badgered and berated him about it for a couple of minutes, but then took his word for it, walked over to the window and looked out.

And then she saw it: huge red lights, hovering in place under the tree line, and making noise.

The lights dimmed slightly, and then sped off. The mysterious lights reappeared around midnight, when Jenny's mother was also a witness.

It was reported to the Barrington police last Thursday that these strange lights had been sighted in the skies over Barrington around midnight, at Dundee Road between Ela and Barrington Roads.

Three huge, bright red lights that moved vertically and very quickly. They disappeared and reappeared around midnight, according to the report.

"It was just very strange," said Polk. "We didn't say, oh, this is a UFO. It could have been anything. But it wasn't an everyday occurrence."

Since the Polks live in an O'Hare flight path, they are familiar with the airplane lights, and they are certain that's not what they saw.

Jenny stressed that the family does not believe in flying saucers, but what they saw was definitely alien, so to speak.

## UFO FILMED IN WILLARD, OHIO

Willard, Ohio Times-Junction staffer Cindra Ellen Kilgore filed the following on July 7th:

If there really are UFO's then why are more not reported? The answer to this question may lie in what happened to William Willard.

Willard and his wife, Debra, were sitting in the side yard of their house on Central Ave., in Willard at 9 p.m. June 18. It was a hot day, and that is why the Willards and their daughter, Kristen, 12, were outside where it was somewhat cooler.

According to Mrs. Willard, she and her family, and some neighbor children all saw something in the sky. She said the "something" came out of the southeast and made a loop, curving back towards the southwest.

"It intrigued me because of the way it never changed," she added. "I was just different. It never lost its formation."

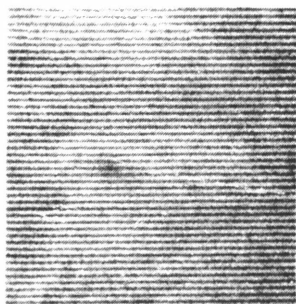
Mrs. Willard said there was more than one object in the sky. She and her husband described what they saw as being an oval shape with another oval shape trailing it. Over the first oval shape there was an arch of three smaller round objects.

"We watched it maybe 10 to 15 minutes before it went completely out of sight," said Mrs. Willard.

Luckily Mr. Willard owns a video camera and was able to video tape the objects. Because of his excitement, the tape is a bit shaky, but all the objects can be seen moving across the sky.

The objects were a brown color, and the Willards said there was no noise and no lights.

Dennis Blondin, a meteorologist from the National Weather Service said they release weather balloons at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., but does not



JUST A BLOB on a video tape or a UFO? William Willard would like to know what he saw on June 18.

believe one could drift all the way to Willard.

"That doesn't sound like anything we would have released," he said of the number of objects seen in the sky. He said they only release one balloon at a time.

A source with the FAA, said that voice recorder tapes are only kept for 15 days, so he could not verify any aircraft in the vicinity.

### WEIRDOLOGY

by Rick R. Hilberg

#### ARKANSAS "WATER PANTHER" LEGEND

Columnist W.C. Jameson of the Conway Log Cabin Democrat gives us this fascinating look at a local legend in his January 20th offering:

Long before white settlers moved in large numbers into Arkansas, the Indians who lived and hunted along the Little Red River told of a strange creature often spotted in the waters and in the woods. This creature, which the Indians called a water panther, was regarded as a spirit-monster and, according to the legend, has lived for ages in the region, occasionally preying on human beings.

Early white trappers spoke of encountering the water panther, of hearing its cries at night, and several deaths were attributed to the creature. When loggers moved into the area during the 1870s, they, too, reported the existence of a monster stalking them in the woods.

Years later, as deer hunting grew in the region, outdoorsmen came in contact with the water panther from time to time. Just as before, deaths were blamed on the creature.

After Greers Ferry Lake was formed and the waters of the Little Red River were backed up, much of the region roamed by the creature was inundated and sightings of the monster ceased. For a while.

Then, in the 1960s, it was seen again, and quite frequently. Rather than roaming and stalking the wooded bottoms of the Little Red River, however, the water panther was more often than not spotted in the lake itself! Legend claims the beast lived in one of the many limestone caves found near the shores.

For years, drownings in the lake were attributed to the monster. The bodies that were never found, and there were several, were believed to have been eaten by the water panther.

In the early 1970s, a scuba diver reported encountering the water panther near an underwater opening to a cavern. The creature, a horrid, man-like form covered with fur, rushed at the diver and ripped off his mask. Frightened for his life, the diver kicked and flailed and succeeded in fending off the beast until he could reach the surface and safety.

Many dismiss the tales of the water panther as merely fanciful folklore, designed only to scare the wits out of the gullible. Others, many of them long-time residents of the region near Greers Ferry Lake and the Little Red River, are not so sure.

At night, they claim, they can still hear the eerie cries of the creature.

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